

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS - DIRECTIVES

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APPROVAL: _____

1.7 Disclosure of Information to Health Practitioner Intervention Program

Purpose: To ensure the appropriate exchange of information between the Department and health regulatory boards and the Health Practitioner Intervention Program (HPIP).

Policy: It is the policy of the Department to provide information concerning a person's potential eligibility for acceptance in HPIP in order to facilitate the program's operation and mandate to deal with impaired practitioners.

Procedures:

A. Responsibilities of the Enforcement Division:

1. Whenever an employee of the Department learns of any evidence that creates a reasonable suspicion that any regulated practitioner may have an impairment as defined in §54.1-2515 of the *Code of Virginia*, it shall be reported immediately to DHP's HPIP program contractor.
2. The employee shall provide any information about the conduct and impairment to DHP's HPIP contractor unless such disclosure will jeopardize investigative results or administrative or criminal prosecution of the case. Any question about the appropriateness of disclosure about the case shall be referred to the Director of Enforcement for resolution.
3. Once the investigative report has been presented to the appropriate board for determination of probable cause or other action, the contractor for HPIP shall direct any request for information to the Intervention Program Manager.

B. Responsibilities of Board Executives

1. Whenever a notice of any proceeding is issued which alleges that a practitioner may be impaired as defined in §54.1-2515 of the *Code*, a copy of that notice shall be provided to the contractor for the HPIP.
2. Any order (including consent orders) which find impairment or any decision document issued subsequent to a notice described above shall be transmitted to the contractor.